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Application No. 10/581,266
Amendment dated November 15, 2010
After Final Office Action of September 14, 2010

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Docket No.: 80508(302721)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Previously amended): The exercise equipment as set forth in claim 11, wherein said curved recesses are configured such that an open angle between the user's legs substantially corresponds to directions of flexion and extension of left and right knee joints under the condition that the user is in a sitting posture on the saddle, and places its feet on the foot positions.

Claim 3 (Previously amended): The exercise equipment as set forth in claim 11, wherein said curved recesses are configured such that an open angle between the user's legs is in a range of 30 degrees to 70 degrees under the condition that the user is in a sitting posture on the saddle.

Claim 4 (Previously amended): The exercise equipment as set forth in claim 11, wherein said curved recesses are configured such that an inclination angle of the femoral region of the user relative to a vertical direction is in a range of 30 degrees to 50 degrees under the condition that the user is in the sitting posture on the saddle.

Claim 5 (Previously amended): The exercise equipment as set forth in claim 11, wherein the saddle comprises a first bump formed at its forward side and a second bump formed at its rearward side, wherein said curved recesses are provided between the first and second bumps.

Claim 6 (Previously amended): The exercise equipment as set forth in claim 11, wherein a forward portion of the saddle is positioned to be lower than a saddle center portion with said curved recesses, and a rearward portion of the saddle is positioned to be higher than said saddle center portion.

Claim 7 (Previously amended): The exercise equipment as set forth in claim 11, wherein the saddle further comprises a backrest detachably attached to a rear portion of the saddle.

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Claim 8 (Previously amended): The exercise equipment as set forth in claim 11, wherein the saddle further comprises a saddle-length adjuster configured to change a length of the saddle in a forward and rearward direction.

Claim 9 (Previously amended): The exercise equipment as set forth in claim 11, wherein the saddle further comprises a saddle-width adjuster configured to change a length of the saddle in a width direction.

Claim 10 (Previously amended): The exercise equipment as set forth in claim 11, wherein the saddle further comprises an angle adjuster configured to change an inclination angle of an inner surface of said curved recess.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): An exercise equipment comprising:

a base fixed in place; and

a support portion configured to support a part of the user's body such that at least a part of the user's own weight acts on a leg including a femoral region,

wherein said support portion comprises a saddle for supporting the user's buttocks, and said saddle has a pair of curved recesses at its outer periphery, which are configured such that parts of femoral regions of the user fit said curved recesses,

wherein the exercise equipment further comprises:

a control unit;

a drive source controlled by the control unit; and

a coupling mechanism to which the drive source is connected, and

wherein the coupling mechanism is configured to movably couple said support portion to said base such that a load acted on said leg by the user's own weight varies according to a relative positional displacement between a foot position and a position of a center of gravity of the user, and also configured to limit a movable direction of said support portion such that a direction of the relative positional displacement between the foot position and the position of center of gravity is limited to a direction of flexion and extension of a knee joint of the user,

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wherein the saddle is oscillated between a position where the saddle is in the upright posture against the base and a position where the saddle is inclined in a forward left or forward right direction.

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Previously Amended): The exercise equipment as set forth in claim 8, wherein the saddle is symmetrical along an axis in the length direction.

Claim 14 (Previously Amended): The exercise equipment as set forth in claim 9, wherein the saddle is symmetrical along an axis in the length direction.

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The exercise equipment as set forth in claim 11, wherein an open angle between the user's legs is in a range of 30 degrees to 70 degrees, and the open angle substantially corresponds to directions of flexion and extension of left and right knee joints under the condition that the user is in a sitting posture on the saddle, and places a foot on the foot position.